



IN REPLY REFER TO.

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR
Washington, D.C. 20240In reply, please address to:
Main Interior, Room 6513By Regular Mail and Fax to:
907-271-4143James Mothershead, Esq.
Assistant Regional Solicitor, Alaska Region
4230 University Drive, Suite 300
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-4626

July 5, 2006

Re: Omar Stratman v. Leisnoi, Inc.
Certification of the Native Village of Woody Island

Dear Mr. Mothershead:

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with a report as to the current status of the Department's review of the certification of the Native Village of Woody Island, Leisnoi, Inc.

Previously, I advised you that our office had finalized and sent forward to David Bernhardt, the Deputy Solicitor, a briefing package and a draft recommended decision for the Secretary's consideration. I also indicated that we had met with the Deputy Solicitor and new Associate Solicitor – Indian Affairs, Carl Artman of Wisconsin.

At the time of our last letter, Secretary Norton had recently announced her resignation and President Bush had announced his nomination of Governor Dirk Kempthorne of Idaho to replace her. We anticipated that Deputy Secretary Scarlett, who would be Acting Secretary pending Governor Kempthorne's confirmation, would defer taking action on the draft recommended decision. Deputy Secretary Scarlett did defer taking action.

The Senate confirmed Governor Kempthorne's nomination on May 26 and the Governor was sworn in as the 49th Secretary of the Interior on the same day. Since that time we have continued to work with the Solicitor, the Counselor to the Solicitor and others to respond to questions related to the draft recommended decision. I have been advised by the Counselor to

Letter to James R. Mothershead, Esq.

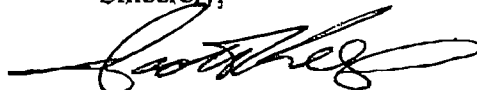
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the Solicitor that he believes based on the discussions to date that the Department will be able to render its final administrative decision on this matter within 45 days.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Scott Keep

Assistant Solicitor

Branch of Tribal Government and Alaska

Division of Indian Affairs

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